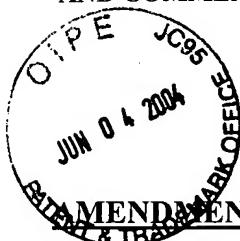


Applicant(s): Arthur ASHMAN
Serial No.: 09/448,692
Confirmation No.: 5329
Group Art Unit: 3738
Filed: November 24, 1999
Examiner: D. Isabella

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.312
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) The implant material of claim 20, wherein the particles have intraparticulate pores, said pores having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

2. (Previously Presented) Implant material of claim 20 wherein said particles have a diameter of up to about 500 microns.

3. (Original) Implant material of claim 2 wherein said particles have a diameter of about 50 to about 200 microns.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) Implant material of claim 1 wherein said pores comprise up to about 60 percent of said implant material.

6. (Original) Implant material of claim 5 wherein said pores comprise between about 40 and about 60 percent of said implant material.

7. (Original) Implant material of claim 1 wherein said pores have a size of less than about 100 microns.

8. (Original) Implant material of claim 7 wherein said pores have a size of between about 50 and about 100 microns.

9. (Previously Presented) Implant material of claim 20 further comprising collagen.

10. (Original) Implant material of claim 9 wherein said collagen comprises between about 30% and about 65% of said implant material by volume.

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11. (Original) Implant material of claim 10 wherein said collagen comprises about 50% of said implant material by volume.

12. (Original) Implant material of claim 9 wherein said collagen comprises injectable collagen.

13. (Previously Presented) Implant material of claim 20 wherein said particles have an inner core comprised of a first biologically-compatible polymeric material and an outer layer generally surrounding said inner core, said outer layer comprised of a second biologically-compatible polymeric material, said second polymeric material being hydrophilic and having a composition different from the composition of said first polymeric material.

14. (Original) Implant material of claim 13 wherein said first polymeric material is an acrylic polymer.

15. (Original) Implant material of claim 14 wherein said first polymeric material is polymethylmethacrylate.

16. (Original) Implant material of claim 13 wherein said second polymeric material is a polymeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate.

17. (Original) Implant material of claim 16 wherein said polymeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate comprises a copolymer of monomeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate and a cross-linking agent.

18. (Previously Presented) Implant material of claim 20 further comprising at least one bioactive substance.

19. (Original) Implant material of claim 18 wherein said at least one bioactive substance is grafted to said biologically-compatible particles.

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20. (Previously Presented) A soft tissue implant material comprising biologically-compatible non-resorbable polymeric particles having a coating of calcium hydroxide thereon, wherein said particles have interstices therebetween having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

21-49. (Canceled).

50. (Previously Presented) A particulate soft tissue implant comprising the material of claim 20.

51. (Previously Presented) A particulate soft tissue implant comprising particles having an inner core comprised of polymethylmethacrylate and an outer layer generally surrounding said inner core comprised of polymeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate, said particles having interstices therebetween with dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

52. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 51, wherein said particles have intraparticulate pores with dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

53. (Currently Amended) Implant ~~material~~ of claim [[51]] 52 wherein said pores comprise up to about 60 percent of said implant material.

54. (Currently Amended) Implant ~~material~~ of claim 53 wherein said pores comprise between about 40 and about 60 percent of said implant material.

55. (Currently Amended) Implant ~~material~~ of claim [[51]] 52 wherein said pores have a size of less than about 100 microns.

56. (Currently Amended) Implant ~~material~~ of claim 55 wherein said pores have a size of between about 50 and about 100 microns.

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57. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 51 wherein said particles have a diameter of up to about 500 microns.

58. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 57 wherein said particles have a diameter of about 50 to about 200 microns.

59. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 51 further comprising collagen.

60. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 59 wherein said collagen comprises between about 30% and about 65% of said implant material by volume.

61. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 60 wherein said collagen comprises about 50% of said implant material by volume.

62. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 59 wherein said collagen comprises injectable collagen.

63. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 51 further comprising at least one bioactive substance.

64. (Currently Amended) Implant material of claim 63 wherein said at least one bioactive substance is grafted to said biologically-compatible particles.

65-88. (Canceled).

89. (Previously Presented) A soft tissue implant material comprising at least partially non-resorbable biologically-compatible polymeric particles having a coating of calcium hydroxide thereon, wherein said particles have interstices therebetween having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

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90. (Previously Presented) A particulate soft tissue implant comprising the material of claim 89.

91. (Previously Presented) A soft tissue implant material comprising at least partially non-resorbable biologically-compatible polymeric particles having an amount of calcium hydroxide thereon effective to induce soft tissue growth, wherein said particles have interstices therebetween having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

92. (Previously Presented) A particulate soft tissue implant comprising the material of claim 91.

93. (Previously Presented) Implant material of claim 90, wherein the biologically-compatible polymeric particles are non-resorbable.